

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The status of all claims and the text of pending claims, with markings to show current changes relative to the immediately prior version, follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A brush seal, comprising:
 - a bristle arrangement having ~~a retention section~~ plurality of bristles and a weld joint securing said bristles together;
 - a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a clamping section to frictionally engage said ~~retention section~~ weld joint;
 - wherein said clamping section allows movement of said ~~retention section~~ weld joint before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said ~~retention section~~ weld joint after said plates are secured together.
2. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said clamping section comprises a channel.
3. (Currently Amended) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein said channel has a width corresponding to a width of said ~~retention section~~ weld joint and a length greater than a length of said ~~retention section~~ weld joint.
4. (Original) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein said channel is located on at least one of said plates.

5. (Original) The brush seal of claim 4, wherein said channel is located on both of said plates.
6. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.
7. (Currently Amended) A brush seal segment, comprising:
a bristle arrangement having a retention section;
a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a ~~clamping section~~ channel to frictionally engage said retention section, said channel extending to an end of at least one said plates;
wherein said ~~clamping section~~ channel allows movement of said retention section before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said retention section after said plates are secured together.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Original) The brush seal segment of claim 8, wherein said channel has a width corresponding to a width of said retention section and a length greater than a length of said retention section.
10. (Original) The brush seal segment of claim 8, wherein said channel is located on at least one of said plates.

11. (Original) The brush seal segment of claim 10, wherein said channel is located on both of said plates.

12. (Original) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.

13. (Currently Amended) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said brush seal segment is part of a packing ring.

14. (Original) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said packing ring includes a labyrinth seal.

15. (Original) A method of assembling a brush seal, comprising the steps of:
providing a pair of plates and a bristle arrangement, said bristle arrangement locatable between said plates at a plurality of positions;
selectively locating said bristle arrangement at a desired one of said positions; and
securing said plates together to retain said bristle arrangement at said desired position.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said securing step comprises removably securing said plates together.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the method adjusts a clearance of said brush seal.
18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the method adjusts a stiffness of said bristle arrangement.
19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.
20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising a step of loosening said plates to release a used bristle arrangement, said loosening step occur prior to said locating and securing steps, and wherein said locating and securing steps utilize a replacement bristle arrangement.
21. (New) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein said channel extends to an end of at least one of said plates.
22. (New) The brush seal of claim 21, wherein said channel has uniform depth.
23. (New) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said channel has uniform depth.
24. (New) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a plurality of bristles and a weld joint securing said bristles together, and said weld joint is said retention section.